

PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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A WORD IN SEASON.

June.

Mine is the month of roses; yes, and mine

The month of marriages! All pleasant sights

And scents, the fragrance of the blossoming vine,

The foliage of the valleys and the heights.

Mine are the longest days, the loveliest nights;

The mower's scythe makes music to my ear;

I am the mother of all dear delights;

I am the fairest daughter of the year.

—Longfellow (The Poet's Calendar.)

Last Week's North Carolina Crop Bulletin.

Early planted cotton is being chopped out, and this work is nearly completed in the south portion; much cotton is not yet up, and it is feared that seeds have started to germinate and have subsequently perished in the hot, dry soil; planting is not finished, and necessarily stands are poor; the growth of cotton that is up has been slow, and in some sections plants are dying. Corn is in somewhat better condition, early planted and well cultivated fields are doing very well, though suffering for moisture; late planted is irregular, much is not up, and considerable replanting must still be done; worms are doing some injury; growth of corn is also slow. Tobacco could not be transplanted this week except by watering, and very little of that work was done. Early transplanted tobacco has a fair stand, but many plants are but-toning low, and the drought has caused some plants to run up to seed. Wheat and winter oats will give a fair yield in many counties, in others both crops are nearly a failure; spring oats are deteriorating rapidly; cereals are now in bloom, but heads cannot fill well without more moisture. Digging and shipping Irish potatoes are underway in the east, with short yield of fair quality; in the west potatoes are up and being injured by the Colorado beetle; sweet potato slips are not growing well. Pastures are becoming parched; gardens are suffering and the outlook for fruit is less promising.

Cheap Labor and Efficient Labor.

"You smile at the notion now that cheap labor is advantageous; but, when I was aboy in Wake County, it is a fact that most of the men were looking for a chance to boss a job, and very few of them, were looking for a job. They didn't so much wish to work themselves as they wished to hire somebody else to work. Somehow, everybody took the point of view of the employer. Men who had nothing to do talked about the advantages of cheap labor. I was among them. Although I had learned a trade and was looking for a job myself, I spoke in long sentences to those New Englanders about the cheapness of labor! While I was straving for lack of decent pay for my own work, I was boasting about the lowness of wages. For I was so ill paid at my trade that I couldn't make a living. Wages were too low. I wept and went away and ceased to think of myself as a boss. I took an honest job wherever I could get it. I have kept at work at the same trade ever since; but although I also am an employer of labor, some of it very skillful labor, I am not any longer in favor of low wages any more than the old Vermonter was in favor of them.

"The boss habit of mind has played havoc with many a man here during these twenty years; and the men in Raleigh and about here who were actually doing good work then are the men who are now dominant—in the community. The old bosses are nearly all dead or—forgetten. The young fellows who were then seeking jobs at good trades—some as bankers, some as builders, some as teachers, some as manufacturers—these are the men who are your foremost citizens to-day.

"The history of Raleigh—its commercial, financial and social history—these twenty years proves this truth as clearly as the growing corn proves the presence of summer. This is a conservative city, an old city, not a city of rapid changes. Yet in only twenty years it has so completely changed in the personal relations of its citizens, in the relative importance of its families, in the nature of its industries, that an old resident must get all his bearings anew. And most of the changes, so far as I know them, admirably illustrate the text of my sermon, which you will find written in the history of most families in North Carolina—that the man who does the job gets the wages and the man who couldn't do the job couldn't boss it long and he has got—nothing.

"As a working craftsman myself, I congratulate the Commonwealth that its chief aim is now become the training of men to work. You hear nothing about the dead old doctrine that cheap wages are desirable; for the gospel now preached to you is the advantage of good workmanship. And this change of creed marks a new epoch. It marks a change in men's relations to one another and in their relations to society. It covers all the wide difference between a mediaeval world and a democracy.

It covers as great a change as it took the English race nearly a thousand years completely to make—the change from the feudal barons to Thomas Jefferson.—Dr. Walter H. Page, in Commencement Address, N. C. A. & M. College, Raleigh, May 23, 1903.

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\$1.70—Raleigh to Chapel Hill and return, account Summer School, University of North Carolina. Tickets on sale June 12-29, final limit July 15, 1903.

\$6.50—Raleigh to Morehead City and return, account meeting North Carolina Bar Association. Tickets on sale June 30, July 1, 2, final limit July 6, 1903.

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